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PHENOMENON RESPECTING TIDES.

It has sometimes happened that tides have risen in various places to an unusual height, without any apparent adequate cause, deducible from the relative positions of the moon and the earth. The following is submitted as an explanation of this curious fact:—

If, from the extremities of any given portion of this habitable globe, two strong winds should continue to blow for any considerable time in opposite directions, (for instance, one to the north, and the other to the south,) it is manifest that *that part* of the atmosphere which is contained in the intermediate space, must, by this long continued subduction of its matter, be much lessened in density and weight, and of course the earth or water immediately below it sustain a relative smaller degree of pressure than usual. Now, the quantity of air withdrawn by these contrary winds must necessarily add to the weight of the atmosphere in those places towards which it has been carried. Suppose it, therefore, to press with this additional weight on that part of the ocean on which it rests; much water will of course recede from thence to that portion of the sea which had been lightened of so much of its incumbent atmosphere. It will be impelled hither from two distinct points, by two contrary impulses—viz, from north and south. If this event should happen about the time of high tide, the swell of the sea will be enormous. The mercury will of course sink at the time and place of these unusually high tides; for the air, lessened of its weight and pressure, becomes unable to support it at its average height. Succeeding storms may, in such cases, be expected—for the reflux of the air into that part of the atmosphere which had been stripped of so large a portion of its elastic matter, must be rapid in the extreme, and of course generate tempests and whirlwinds. That contrary currents of air frequently prevail in the atmosphere, at the same time and place, is manifest from the rapid carry of the clouds, which are often seen moving towards diametrically opposite points of the heavens.

THE COCOA-NUT TREE OF CEYLON, ITS VARIOUS USES.

"From Columbo to Tangalle, a distance of one hundred miles along the sea-shore, plantations of cinnamon amidst groves of cocoa-nut trees, skirt the whole coast for ten miles from the bordering of the tide, which laves the very roots of those graceful and indispensable palms, the cocoa-nut being, in reality, the most valuable product of the island. I recollect hearing in Ceylon an enumeration of ninety-nine distinct articles made from this tree; among the principal were—1. *Arrack* (the spirit under this name, made from the cocoa-nut blossom, is far superior to the Batavian arrack, made from Rice), which is distilled from the sweet juice of the incised flower-stock, termed, 2. *Toddy*, in itself a delicious wholesome beverage, when drank fresh drawn before the morning sun has caused fermentation to commence. 3. *Jaggery*, a coarse, strong-grained, but peculiar flavoured sugar, (well adapted for crystallization, or refining in England), made in abundance from toddy. 4. *Vinegar*, equal to any made from white wine, also prepared from the toddy, and used in making exquisite 5. *Pickles* from the young shoots. 6. *Coir* or ropes, so strong and elastic, and having the peculiar property of being best preserved for use in sea water; (hence their adaptation for mooring, and other purposes, to which they are now applied in Mauritius harbour and elsewhere, as also for running rigging in the Indian shipping.) 7. Brushes and brooms of various descriptions.—8. Matting of excellent quality. 9. Rafters for houses. 10. Oil of much value, and now used in England for candles as well as lamps. 11. Gutters or waterspouts, or conveyances, for which the hollow stem or trunk is so well adapted. 12. Thatching for the peasantry; the shady broad leaf being admirably suited for the purpose. To particularize further, would, however, be tedious, suffice it to say, that the natives of the Maldivé islands send an annual embassy to Ceylon, the boats conveying whom are entirely prepared from this tree, the persons composing

the embassy, clothed and fed on its products, and the numerous presents for the governor of Ceylon, are all manufactured from this queen of the palms"—*Martin's British Colonies*.

LUID HEAUN CRUADHTAN FOR DHÍOM-HAOINEAS.*

Some few years since, amongst many passengers that landed from a Liverpool vessel, after a rough voyage, was a sun-burned, well-looking man, seemingly about forty; on coming on shore, he fervently thanked God for again finding himself on Irish ground, adding, that he had trod many a weary step with a heavy heart since he had left it. He accompanied the rest of the voyagers to one of the best inns—the term *hotel* was not then used. On arriving there the head waiter glanced at him with the supercilious expression that is not uncommon even now amongst those gentry—the brethren of the knife and fork—when they suppose the person cannot satisfy their rapacity, and turned him over to the care of an underling, a fine lad. The stranger ordered dinner, and a retired room; and, after dinner, desired the attendant to bring whiskey, lemons, &c., to make punch; saying, it was a long time since he had tasted his native liquor. "Come, my boy, here is a glass of wine for you; you have attended the well, but I am sorry to see one so young in your situation—a bad school for you, how old are you?"

"Fifteen, if you please, Sir, next Michaelmas."

"Ah, my!" exclaimed the stranger with a sigh; "young, indeed, to be left to yourself; have you no friend that could do better for you?"

"My mother is living here also."

"Your mother—that is well; no doubt she is careful of you; and your father—where is he?"

"I never saw him, Sir. My mother says he is dead," replied the lad in confusion.

The stranger concluded from the boy's manner that he was illegitimate, and asked no further. When left to himself he began to think over the events of his past life, and few pass such a retrospect without mixed sensations of weal and woe. "I have had my trials," said he, "who is without them? God be praised for all!—here I am again, a richer man than ever I could have expected to have been; and sweet is the wealth that has been acquired innocently, by honest fair labour, under the help of God. I have now but one wish to have gratified; but on that hangs all my future happiness. If she be dead or married, what will become of me? yet if ever woman was to be trusted it was herself."

Time passed unheeded, as the stranger mused on his own affairs, till the clock striking eleven, roused him.—"Come, there's no use in thinking; a night's rest will do me more good than all my waking thoughts. I will ring for the little waiter; I like that lad, and must not lose sight of him if my own matters go on well. He has a handsome Irish face, with all the freshness of youth and innocence. Alas! I have not seen such for a long time; yet his features are familiar to me too, though I cannot remember who I have seen like him; in a dream, perhaps"—here the lad entered, rubbing his eyes.

"Did you ring, Sir?"

"Ay, my poor child, I have kept you up too long; but all shall be settled tomorrow. Is my luggage in my room?"

"Yes, Sir, and a good fire there."

"Well, my boy, show me the way."

The housemaid, a handsome woman, was settling the luggage as the stranger entered; the lad left the light on the table and withdrew; the housemaid was about to follow—

"That waiter is a fine lad; who is he?"

"My son, please your honour; and, though I say it, a better boy never lived, goodness be praised for it."

"Your son," said the stranger, looking sharply at her;

* Hardship attends idleness.